



**SA TRAVEL**  
south africa



**ENGLISCH-  
SPRACHIG  
GEFÜHRT**

**DRIFTERS BOTSWANA TOUR**  
16 - Day WILDLIFE SAFARI  
Johannesburg to Victoria Falls or Johannesburg

DAUER  
**16**  
TAGE



★★  
ABENTEUER

2x CANVAS  
2x LODGE  
11x CAMPING

The casual visitor to Botswana could be excused for seeing the country as kilometre upon kilometre of flat, desolate scrubland with little or no surface water. But on closer inspection, coupled with local knowledge, a whole new world will manifest itself, and what is arguably Africa's finest wildlife destination can be experienced. Botswana is a country the size of France, with over a quarter of its land set aside exclusively for nature conservation.

Our tour will take us through the vast Kalahari plains where we meet with the local Bushmen, among the oldest peoples of Africa. We then venture further north, into the magnificent Okavango Delta, the world's largest inland river delta, which spills water from the faraway mountains of Angola into the vast plain of the Makgadikgadi, creating a unique wildlife paradise. We explore the world renowned national parks in fully equipped, open 4x4 vehicles, our route following the age old game migration tracks, depending on the season. We enjoy a game viewing boat cruise on the Chobe River, in Chobe National Park, and finally we visit "The Smoke that Thunders" - Victoria Falls.

Clients may opt to fly out from Victoria Falls or to complete the journey back to Johannesburg, travelling southwards overland. This tour offers the adventure traveller, the photographer, the birdwatcher and the naturalist the ultimate natural paradise.



**DAY 1: JOHANNESBURG – KALAHARI**  
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Our adventure starts on departure from the GREENFIRE LODGE JOHANNESBURG, at 06h30. Making our way through the dry thornveld of South Africa's North West

Province, we aim to cross the Botswana border near Lobatse. On completion of customs and immigration formalities, we enter the vast Kalahari plains that stretch as far as the eye can see. We will cover quite some distance today before arriving at our accommodation, near the village of Kang. Tonight we enjoy a catered meal while our guide explains what to expect in the days to come.

**Meals: Lunch and Dinner own expense // Distance: 720 km**  
**ACCOMMODATION: Kalahari Rest - Camping (2 person dome tents)**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**  
+ Scenic drive through North West South Africa  
+ Kalahari Desert

**Optional Activities:**  
- None, all included

**DAY 2: KALAHARI BUSHMEN**  
Waking up to a spectacular Kalahari sunrise, we enjoy our first cup of coffee and a sumptuous breakfast, before continuing to the frontier town of Ghanzi, home to some of the last authentic Bushmen, who continue to make a living in this harsh desert environment. We stay on a game farm owned and managed by a local Bushman community. Apart from deriving an income from tourism, the farm provides the space and habitat for the community to teach their children their customary ways, and to keep their traditions alive. Our experience will include an educational bush walk, led by a member of the community, giving us insight into their daily lives, and teaching us how they survive in these arid conditions. Tonight we camp on the farm, hosted by members of the community.

**Meals: B L D // Distance: 250 km**  
**ACCOMMODATION: Dqae Qare San Lodge – Camping (2 person dome tents)**

**Included Highlights / Activity:**  
+ Guided bush walk led by true bushman/san

**Optional Activities:**  
- None, all included

**DAY 3 - 5: OKAVANGO DELTA**  
The Okavango River, emanating from central Angola, far to the northwest, flows south- and eastwards, before slowing and spreading into one of the world's only true inland deltas, creating as it does such a unique



ecosystem that supports a huge variety of animal and plant life. The sight of a nervous Lechwe pounding across a flooded plain, the Jacana striding delicately amongst the flowering lilies, the Bee Eater diving to prey on an unsuspecting insect, and of course the familiar cry of the African Fish Eagle - all combine to create the canvas of one of nature's unique masterpieces. The river, eventually spilling its contents into the vast plains of the Makgadikgadi sands, disappears. We spend our time in the Delta exploring the area on foot and by mokoro (dugout canoe). We will learn about the animals and plants of the Delta from local guides who have grown up in the area, and will also, through informal interaction with the guides, have the opportunity to learn about the local people and their way of life in this isolated wilderness area.

**Meals: 3 x B L D // Distance: 390 km on Day 3**  
**ACCOMMODATION: Twin-bedded tented units (sleeping bag required)**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Okavango Delta
- + Guided game walks in the Delta led by local Motswana guides
- + Mokoro excursion in the Delta

**Optional Activities:**

- Scenic Helicopter Flight over the Delta

#### DAY 6: OKAVANGO – MAUN

Starting early, we begin our journey back to relative civilisation. This afternoon we arrive in the 'tourism capital of Botswana' – Maun. We will spend some time stocking up on basic supplies, before travelling the short distance out of town to the DRIFTERS MAUN TENTED LODGE, our stop for the night. The lodge is situated on the banks of the Boteti River. The land here is so flat that the river is known to change its flow direction, depending upon the season and rainfall patterns. The lodge offers comfortable accommodation, swimming pool, bar and restaurant.

**Meals: B L D // Distance: 354 km**  
**ACCOMMODATION: Drifters Maun Lodge - Twin-bedded tented units**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Boteti River Sunset

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

#### DAY 7 - 10: FLEXIBLE GAME RESERVE SCHEDULE (5 Days in National Parks)

We enjoy a scrumptious breakfast at the Lodge before departing on the game viewing part of the trip, undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour. We travel in well-equipped, open 4x4 Land Cruisers, with our local Motswana guides. The 4x4s aren't just for show, as the national parks are truly wild places, the roads just tracks in the sand. We carry only our cameras and day packs, a picnic lunch, and drinks for the road, while a support vehicle goes ahead with our luggage and all the camp equipment. This leaves us free to game drive as much as we want during the day, to stop at hides and water holes as long as we like, and to make the most of our time here. Towards sunset we arrive at our camp in the bush, to find that the support staff has erected our tents, set up bush showers and toilets, and have a friendly campfire going to welcome us. We use exclusive private campsites in the national parks, which are no more than a GPS point in the bush, completely secluded and undeveloped – it is as if we are the first people here, and are alone in the world. We bring everything we will need with us, and leave nothing behind when we depart.

Our route is flexible and depends on the season. An example could be: starting in Moremi Game Reserve, we spend the first

night near the well-known Third Bridge. Drift off to sleep to the howl of the distant hyena or the earthy roar of a lion, and even the deep grunt of a half-submerged hippo. We might then head north via Xakanaxa, to camp near North Gate. This area is excellent for game viewing and we will conduct afternoon and morning drives along the wetland areas.

Then we might go on up to Savuti, an area that offers a multitude of game drive options and is a very active game area (keep the fruit well hidden from the roving elephant, the meat from the prowling hyenas, and everything from the monkeys). The vegetation is constantly changing, from open plains with palm trees, to marshland, to dense Mopane woodlands or Acacia scrub. This variety of habitats makes for excellent game viewing. Our backup crew remain with us throughout, moving the camp for us, so we can concentrate on the game. Depending on the conditions in the national parks we might also venture into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve or the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.

**Meals: 4 x B L D // Distance: +- 125 km**  
**ACCOMMODATION: Camping (2 person dome tents)**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + 4x4 open vehicle game drives on all five days
- + Private non fenced campsites
- + Extensive first hand game viewing experience
- + Explore the heart of National Geographic's photography region

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

#### DAY 11: MAUN

Our last morning in the parks, we slowly game drive our way back to Maun. We enjoy an own-expense lunch, and have some time to explore the town, before heading out to the comfort of the DRIFTERS MAUN TENTED LODGE. This afternoon we relax at the lodge before enjoying a catered meal and a comfortable night.

**Meals: B D; (Lunch on this day is own expense in Maun) // Distance: +- 225 km**

**ACCOMMODATION: Drifters Maun Tented Lodge - Twin-bedded tented units**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Game Drive on the way out of the park
- + Visit to Maun

**Optional Activities:**

- Game flight, fixed wing or helicopter

#### DAY 12: MAKGADIKGADI PANS

After the early mornings of the last few days, we enjoy a relaxed start at the lodge today, spending time along the river bank enjoying the tranquillity of the area, or lounging at the swimming pool. For those interested, we recommend going on a local village walk. Chenoga Village, not far from our lodge, is not on a regular tourist route, so you have the opportunity to explore an authentic village with one of our staff from the lodge, who lives in the village.

We have an early lunch, before continuing our journey eastward into the spectacular Makgadikgadi Salt Pans area. Oceans of golden grass give way to the stark white pans, under a very big sky. We camp the night in splendid isolation. The adventurous can sleep out under the stars and be rewarded with the awesome spectacle of the southern night sky.



#### DEPARTURES

This tour departs from Johannesburg every Saturday. Please note – during peak season we may run two departures, at this time clients may be required to travel in the reverse direction. The tour can be reduced to 15 Days by flying out of Victoria Falls. At time of going to print the above itinerary was correct but Drifters continually strive to offer our clients the best available tour options and as such we reserve the right to change aspects of the itinerary at our discretion. During the validity of the published itinerary conditions will change, roads are improved or deteriorate often opening up new routes, contracted camps and accommodation facilities change standards, optional activities become available or are discontinued, new border posts open and old ones become congested, etc. Drifters are continuously monitoring all of the factors that make up a successful tour and as such will make amendments to the published itineraries if circumstances demand or if we believe that the change will enhance the tour.

#### Included Highlights

- + Kalahari - Bushmen walk
- + Okavango Delta
- + Okavango Mokoro excursion
- + Game Walks
- + National Parks (Moremi/Savuti – 5 Days)
- + Extensive Open-vehicle Game Drives in National Parks
- + Wild, remote serviced camping in national parks
- + Makgadikgadi Salt Pans
- + Chobe River Boat Cruise
- + Chobe National Park
- + Victoria Falls National Park and entry fee

#### Optional Activities

- White Water Rafting
- Bungee Jumping
- Scenic Flight – Okavango Delta
- Zambezi River Sunset Cruise



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In some seasons the pans are not easily accessible, in which case we will camp at a local campsite.

**Meals: B L D // Distance: 200 - 300 km**

**ACCOMMODATION: Camping (2 person dome tents)**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Village walk
- + Visit to Makgadikgadi Salt Pans
- + Camping on the pans under the stars (weather permitting)
- + Star gazing

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

#### **DAY 13: CHOBE RIVER – VICTORIA FALLS**

Venturing north today, we make our way to the slow, placid Chobe River, an ideal habitat for hippos and crocodiles, and an attraction to some of the biggest herds of elephant and buffalo on earth. This afternoon we enjoy an extensive boat cruise on the river, within Chobe National Park. Gliding close to the banks, we hope to silently approach the animals that come down to the river to drink. Back on land, we cross the border into Zimbabwe and make our way to our accommodation for the next two nights. The lodge is centrally situated and within walking distance of the falls and other attractions.

**Meals: B L D // Distance: 320 - 400 km**

**ACCOMMODATION: TBA**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Chobe National Park
- + Extensive Boat Cruise on the Chobe River

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

#### **DAY 14 : VICTORIA FALLS**

Awaking in the adventure capital of Africa, it is with new excitement that we explore the amazing Victoria Falls, known to the locals as "Mosi-oa-Tunya", meaning "The smoke that thunders". This is the place where, according to ancient traditions, the Zambezi River God "Nyami Nyami", who takes the form of a snake spirit, is in hiding. Your entry fee to the falls is included in the tour price, and you are free to spend as much time as you like viewing the falls and exploring the surrounding rain forest.

Various other attractions can be visited and activities enjoyed, including the tribal village or curio market. Victoria Falls is also home to a multitude of adventure activities, such as an aircraft flip over the falls, a boat trip on the Zambezi River, white water rafting or bungee jumping, but allowance must be made for the

extra expense of these optional activities. We spend two nights here, thus allowing you some time to explore the town and all it has to offer, with the freedom to choose the sights and activities that interest you. Tonight we will eat out at a local restaurant (own expense). Relax to the sound of the African night and the distant roar of the falls and drink the farewell toasts to your adventure.

**Meals: B (Lunch and dinner is own expense in town)**

**Distance: (Free day to explore town or to do some activities)**

**ACCOMMODATION: TBA**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Victoria Falls National Park
- + Entry Fee for viewing the Falls

**Optional Activities:**

- Scenic Helicopter Flight
- White water rafting
- Bungee jumping
- Gorge swing
- Many more available

#### **DAY 15: VICTORIA FALLS – FRANCISTOWN**

The guests flying out on the 15-day tour will do so today, while the rest will cross back into Botswana, to continue south toward Francistown, Botswana's second city. Tonight we camp for the last time, enjoying the African night and celebrating our adventure with our last tour meal.

**Meals: B L D // Distance: 568 km**

**ACCOMMODATION: Camping (2 person dome tents)**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Last opportunity to view game on route to Francistown
- + Scenic drive from Zimbabwe to Botswana

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

#### **DAY 16: FRANCISTOWN – JOHANNESBURG**

Crossing the Limpopo River, we return to South Africa and make our way back to Johannesburg, arriving at the GREEN-FIRE LODGE JOHANNESBURG in the early evening. Post-tour accommodation and airport transfers can be booked through DRIFTERS.

**Meals: B (Lunch today is own expense)**

**Distance: 700 km**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- + Border crossing back into South Africa

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A sleeping bag, towel and pillow are required for this tour. Seasonal malaria precautions are necessary and are locally obtainable. A barrel bag or backpack is best suited for this trip (suitcases may not fit into the space provided). An extra day bag or camera bag is advised. Spending money will be required for the restaurant meals, drinks, visas, tips, curios, airport transfers, and any other optional excursions. (Zimbabwe airport tax US\$30-00 for those flying out on Day 15 - subject to change.)

Visa info - A valid passport is required by everyone. The tour will visit South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. It is the client's responsibility to insure they have the appropriate visas required for this trip to all the countries we visit. Some nationalities might need to obtain visas before departure as they cannot be obtained at the border.

Remember, help us to help you by participating and by keeping an open mind. Our price includes all food as specified, coffee, tea, juice at breakfast, transport, professional guides, mokoro hire, accommodation, group equipment, permits and park entrance fees.

Our price does not include restaurant meals where stipulated, visas, tips, curios, optional excursions, alcohol, bottled water and soft drinks, airport tax, airport transfers and airfares. Before departure clients will be required to enter into an agreement pertaining to our booking conditions and general information as defined on our website and in our brochure. Clients are required to have their own comprehensive personal travel and medical insurance.

## PREISLISTE 2019/20

25.05.2019-09.06.2019	€ 2.095,00	21.12.2019-05.01.2020	€ 2.195,00	04.07.2020-19.07.2020	€ 2.295,00
01.06.2019-16.06.2019	€ 2.095,00	28.12.2019-12.01.2020	€ 2.195,00	11.07.2020-26.07.2020	€ 2.295,00
22.06.2019-07.07.2019	€ 2.095,00	04.01.2020-19.01.2020	€ 2.195,00	18.07.2020-02.08.2020	€ 2.295,00
29.06.2019-14.07.2019	€ 2.095,00	11.01.2020-26.01.2020	€ 2.195,00	25.07.2020-09.08.2020	€ 2.295,00
06.07.2019-21.07.2019	€ 2.195,00	18.01.2020-02.02.2020	€ 2.195,00	01.08.2020-16.08.2020	€ 2.295,00
13.07.2019-28.07.2019	€ 2.195,00	25.01.2020-09.02.2020	€ 2.195,00	08.08.2020-23.08.2020	€ 2.295,00
20.07.2019-04.08.2019	€ 2.195,00	01.02.2020-16.02.2020	€ 2.195,00	15.08.2020-30.08.2020	€ 2.295,00
27.07.2019-11.08.2019	€ 2.195,00	08.02.2020-23.02.2020	€ 2.195,00	22.08.2020-06.09.2020	€ 2.295,00
03.08.2019-18.08.2019	€ 2.195,00	15.02.2020-01.03.2020	€ 2.195,00	29.08.2020-13.09.2020	€ 2.295,00
10.08.2019-25.08.2019	€ 2.195,00	22.02.2020-08.03.2020	€ 2.195,00	05.09.2020-20.09.2020	€ 2.295,00
17.08.2019-01.09.2019	€ 2.195,00	29.02.2020-15.03.2020	€ 2.195,00	12.09.2020-27.09.2020	€ 2.295,00
24.08.2019-08.09.2019	€ 2.195,00	07.03.2020-22.03.2020	€ 2.195,00	19.09.2020-04.10.2020	€ 2.295,00
31.08.2019-15.09.2019	€ 2.195,00	14.03.2020-29.03.2020	€ 2.195,00	26.09.2020-11.10.2020	€ 2.295,00
07.09.2019-22.08.2019	€ 2.195,00	21.03.2020-05.04.2020	€ 2.195,00	03.10.2020-18.10.2020	€ 2.295,00
14.09.2019-29.09.2019	€ 2.195,00	28.03.2020-12.04.2020	€ 2.195,00	10.10.2020-25.10.2020	€ 2.295,00
21.09.2019-06.10.2019	€ 2.195,00	04.04.2020-19.04.2020	€ 2.195,00	17.10.2020-01.11.2020	€ 2.295,00
28.09.2019-13.10.2019	€ 2.195,00	11.04.2020-26.04.2020	€ 2.195,00	24.10.2020-08.11.2020	€ 2.295,00
05.10.2019-20.10.2019	€ 2.195,00	18.04.2020-03.05.2020	€ 2.195,00	31.10.2020-15.11.2020	€ 2.295,00
12.10.2019-27.10.2019	€ 2.195,00	25.04.2020-10.05.2020	€ 2.195,00	07.11.2020-22.11.2020	€ 2.295,00
19.10.2019-03.11.2019	€ 2.195,00	02.05.2020-17.05.2020	€ 2.195,00	14.11.2020-29.11.2020	€ 2.295,00
26.10.2019-10.11.2019	€ 2.195,00	09.05.2020-24.05.2020	€ 2.195,00	21.11.2020-06.12.2020	€ 2.295,00
02.11.2019-17.11.2019	€ 2.195,00	16.05.2020-31.05.2020	€ 2.195,00	28.11.2020-13.12.2020	€ 2.295,00
09.11.2019-24.11.2019	€ 2.195,00	23.05.2020-07.06.2020	€ 2.195,00	05.12.2020-20.12.2020	€ 2.295,00
16.11.2019-01.12.2019	€ 2.195,00	30.05.2020-14.06.2020	€ 2.195,00	12.12.2020-27.12.2020	€ 2.295,00
23.11.2019-08.12.2019	€ 2.195,00	06.06.2020-21.06.2020	€ 2.195,00	19.12.2020-03.01.2021	€ 2.295,00
30.11.2019-15.12.2019	€ 2.195,00	13.06.2020-28.06.2020	€ 2.195,00	26.12.2020-10.01.2021	€ 2.295,00
07.12.2019-22.12.2019	€ 2.195,00	20.06.2020-05.07.2020	€ 2.195,00		
14.12.2019-29.12.2019	€ 2.195,00	27.06.2020-12.07.2020	€ 2.195,00		